

# **Generator and Candle Safety**

**New Orleans, LA.** - The New Orleans Fire Department would like all citizens to be prepared for emergencies and to take the proper precautions in using equipment during and after a storm.

## **Portable Generators:**

Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings. The generator should be located so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors or other building openings. Do not refuel the generator while it is running. Turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Generators get extremely hot and will cause severe burns if not handled with caution. Do not store gas or flammable liquids in your home. Never try to power the house with a generator (back feeding); this is an extremely dangerous practice and may electric utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility server. It could overload the circuitry and burn down your home, business, etc. Remember there is always a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning when using portable generators that are not well ventilated. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, invisible, poison gas. Every year, 1,500 people die of CO poisoning and 10,000 others need medical attention because of it. CO poisoning is a real threat, one that you cannot see, smell, or taste, but that you can prevent.

## **Candles:**

Keep candles at least 12 inches (one foot) away from things that can catch fire, like clothing, books and curtains. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that cannot burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax. Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids. Don't leave candles or kerosene lamps burning unattended or within the reach of small children or pets. Extinguish all candles when leaving home or going to bed. Always use a flashlight, not a candle for emergency lighting. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 41% of the civilian death.

## **Charcoal Grills:**

Due to the production of carbon monoxide when charcoal is burned, charcoal grills should not be use inside homes, vehicles, tents or campers, even if ventilation is provided. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless; you will not be alerted to the danger until it is too late.

Never use any flammable liquid other than barbecue starter fluid to start a charcoal grill.

Never put starter fluid on an open flame.

Remove the charcoal ashes from the grill and place them in a metal container with a tight fitting metal lid. Add and mix water with the ashes

Remove ashes only after they have cooled and no warm embers remain.

Keep children away from grills.